

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 377

By Burks

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the staff and owners of the *Herald-Citizen* on the celebration of the newspaper's 100th Anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those noble publications which, through the extraordinary efforts of their founders, employees, and owners, are regarded as informative, honest, and culturally relevant sources of local, national, and world news; and

WHEREAS, the *Herald-Citizen* of Putnam County is one such estimable publication whose staff, along with the greater community of the Upper Cumberland region, is celebrating the 100th Anniversary of its first printing; and

WHEREAS, on Wednesday, February 11, 1903, Elmer Lincoln Wirt and his young son, Ralph, laid type letter-by-letter and utilized a flatbed tabletop press to print the first pages of *The Putnam County Herald*, the forerunner of the *Herald-Citizen*; and

WHEREAS, the 300 original subscribers to *The Putnam County Herald* were presented with an accessible and well-written spread of articles and editorials covering events from around the county and the world; and

WHEREAS, in his journalistic enterprise, Mr. Wirt sought to “build up the schools and churches of the community; foster every legitimate business enterprise; record as faithfully and truthfully as possible the happenings of interest; in short, [to] do whatever [he could] towards making the community better, morally, intellectually, socially, financially”; in so doing, he united the citizens of Putnam County in their efforts to ensure the pleasant and peaceful quality of community life; and

WHEREAS, just over half a century after the founding of *The Putnam County Herald*, John R. Mott, a Cookeville native, established the *Cookeville Citizen*, a weekly tabloid; and

WHEREAS, in 1960, Coleman A. Harwell purchased *The Putnam County Herald*, at which time the two papers were combined as he and Mr. Mott collaborated to produce the *Citizen* on Tuesdays and *The Herald* on Thursdays; and

WHEREAS, as the twin publications were sold to Harold E. Martin in 1968, the names of the paper were joined and daily publication of the *Herald-Citizen* commenced on May 1, 1969, making the *Herald-Citizen* the first daily newspaper in the Upper Cumberland region; and

WHEREAS, since its formation, the *Herald-Citizen* has prospered under the leadership of four publishers, including S. Hershel Lake, who served from 1969 to 1976; Joe Albrecht, who served from 1976 to 1989; Sam Thompson, Jr., who served from 1989 to 1995; and the current publisher, Bill Shuster, who has been a member of the staff of the *Herald-Citizen* since 1968 and has served as publisher since 1995; and

WHEREAS, in 1974, the paper was purchased by C. Lee Walls, Sr. and C. Lee Walls, Jr. of Cookeville Newspapers, Incorporated, who have owned this outstanding publication for over a quarter of a century; and

WHEREAS, throughout its illustrious history that has spanned a turbulent and volatile century, the *Herald-Citizen* has served as a chronicle of many of the most magnificent triumphs and trials experienced by humankind; as such, its staff and owners are to be commended for

their exceptional commitment and dedication to promoting excellence in journalism; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate the staff and owners of the *Herald-Citizen* on the celebration of the newspaper's 100th Anniversary, extending to them our wishes for the continued success of this fine publication.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.